

## THE VENTILATION OF SCHOOL-ROOMS.

"To the Honorable the Provincial Board of Education of New Brunswick :

The Petition of the undersigned, Rate-payers of School District No. — in the Parish of —, in the County of —, humbly sheweth—

That whereas a new School House is now in course of construction in said district, and will be completed by the last of this present month ;

And whereas at a meeting of the Rate-payers held on Monday evening the 8th inst., it was *unanimously agreed* that a *Ventilator*, as prescribed by the Board of Education, *is not needed*.

We therefore humbly hope that the said Ventilation be not enforced ; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

We place the above Petition, omitting only the designation of the District and the names of the signers, upon permanent record, that those who come after us may have some knowledge of the obstacles in the path of our educational progress in the year of grace 1875. The school house referred to in the petition is being erected at a cost of about \$500, and the object of the petitioners in protesting against due provision for the ventilation of the house is to save the extra cost, amounting to \$25 or \$30. The assessed valuation of the School District is some four hundred thousand dollars, or nearly half a million. Two of the *Trustees* subscribe to the petition.

The Regulation of the Board of Education which the petitioners, "as in duty bound," pray may not be enforced, is as follows :—

REGULATION 8.—*Ventilation* : It is required that every School-room have ample provision for the *admission and circulation* of pure air, and the *escape* of IMPURE air.

The following published REMARKS are appended by the Board to the foregoing Regulation :—

REMARK 1.—Without proper ventilation the School-room must be an unhealthy place, and one pervaded by bad odors. Nothing but a continuous supply of pure air can prevent restlessness and nervous irritability on the part of both Teachers and pupils ; head-aches, bronchitis and weak lungs ; a sluggish vital action, depriving pupils and teachers of half their mental activity ; and weariness and exhaustion of all the members of the School during the latter half of each day. The only reason why life is not destroyed in some School houses is the loose and imperfect construction of the buildings.

REMARK 2.—Economy in the use of fuel, equal distribution of heat through the room, and a plentiful supply of pure and properly tempered air, are problems involved in securing a proper system of ventilation. Open fire-places cause a free circulation, but the heat is unevenly distributed, and there is great loss of heat up the chimney. Stoves consume much less fuel, but the heat is not evenly distributed, and there is almost no ventilation connected with the process of heating. Windows open at the top admit the air freely, but the cold current settles at the bottom of the room, and keeps the feet of the pupils uncomfortably cold. On its way it strikes the unprotected necks and shoulders of many of the pupils, causing colds like any other draught. An opening in the ceiling is often made, but when it merely connects with a room overhead, no currents are created and no ventilation is induced. When the outlet is through a flue directly into the outer air, the hot air at the top of the School-room is drawn off, and the foul air below remains. The air is changed but little, while the waste of heat is very great. Two separate flues from the ceiling, or the division of a single flue into several parts, are frequently employed. This plan secures an upward current through one and a downward current through the other, and